



Tulare County
Parks Advisory Committee

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEO MEETING

[https://tularecounty-
ca.zoom.us/j/93876905616?pwd=K0xkK1RsYTdVS3FMeGtzNXFw
Q3Zqdz09](https://tularecounty-ca.zoom.us/j/93876905616?pwd=K0xkK1RsYTdVS3FMeGtzNXFwQ3Zqdz09)

**Committee
Members**

Mike Chrisman
Carol Finney
Nancy Hawkins
Neil Pilegard
Courtney Roche, Jr.
Melynda Metheny
Supervisor
Amy Shuklian

MINUTES

March 18, 2021

3:30 P.M. Committee Convenes

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. At all times, please use the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

Members Present: Nancy Hawkins, Carol Finney, Courtney Roche, Melynda Metheny, Supervisor Amy Shuklian

Staff Present: Brooke Sisk, Allison Pierce, Carrie Amador, Janet Zaragoza, Neil Pilegard

Members Absent: Mike Chrisman

1. Call to Order and Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Committee Member Nancy Hawkins.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Committee member Carol Finney
Second: Committee member Melynda Metheny
Vote: 4- 0 Approved

3. Public Comment: None to report

4. Reservations

Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist – Provided updated new state order which allows low-contact sporting events to be held at County Parks. Event organizers must submit a special event application along with COVID-19 safety plan to GSA staff and Public Health staff for review approval. All standard park reservations such as birthday parties and car shows have been put on hold. Staff proposes allowing reservations for Easter weekend with limited capacity. This consists of three households or less per arbor and renters must attest to follow CDC guidelines.

5. Park Hours of Operation

Brooke Sisk, GSA Director–Provided update on park hours of operation. Proposed the modification of Easter weekend hours to end reservations at 5:00 p.m. and close gates at 6:00 p.m. to ensure timely exit of park patrons, thereby allowing sufficient recovery time for Park staff.

Motion: Committee member Neil Pilegard

Second: Committee member Melynda Metheny

Vote: 4- 0 Approved

6. Grants Update

Carrie Amador, Staff Services Analyst III –reported the grant applications were successfully submitted for Pixley and Goshen Community Parks. The requested grant amount for Pixley was \$8,214,498 and \$4,903,785 for Goshen. The State will announce awards by end of Summer 2021.

Urban & Community Forestry California Climate Investment Grant for Woodville Park- Initially planned on using in-house labor however due to staffing shortages a contractor will be hired. GSA’s Capital Projects division will assist with project management, finalize contract agreement, and submit to the Board of Supervisors in April 2021.

CSET Sequoia Community Corps Active Transportation Program for Ledbetter Park- CSET is building a non-motorized pathway from the basketball court to the Senior Center. CSET commenced work on the project and is anticipated the project will be completed by the end of the year.

Per Capita Grant- Staff will present proposed project specifications at a future Parks Advisory Meeting later this year.

7. Balch Park SQF Fire Update

Neil Pilegard, Parks Manager–Approximately 80 of the 160 acres were impacted, and an estimated 350 hazardous trees need to be removed. The damage was minimal as compared with surrounding areas which can be attributed in part to the fuel load reduction prescribed burn conducted in 2019. There was no major damage to the campground.

Staff requested a quote for electrical repair estimated at a cost of up to \$50,000, and is currently working with FEMA and CAL OES to assist with hazardous tree removal. Evaluation of trees is on hold due to snow and staff is working with CAL Fire and Mountain Home State Park crews for the eventual removal of hazardous trees once identified. Staff is in discussions with the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), in partnership with CSET, who received a grant to assist with future hazardous tree removal efforts.

8. Feral Cat Colony Update

Carrie Amador, Staff Services Analyst III –Visalia Cat Coalition reported one cat passed away of old age. The organization is trying to trap an orange cat typically located around the Museum although, this cat is attributed with keeping other cats away from the area. As kitten season is imminent, they are keeping an eye out so they can be adopted and the parents can be spayed or neutered. Shelters to lure the cats away from the museum are being constructed for potential use at a later date.

9. Lily Pond Fundraising

Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist –The first Lily Pond Fundraising Committee meeting was held on March 1, 2021, however, no members of the public attended. Staff took the opportunity to provide an update to Parks Advisory Committee Member Hawkins on the status of installing fencing and the plan to work on creating a rendering of the project.

10. Geese Abatement

Allison Pierce, Supervising Staff Services Analyst – Currently an estimated 300 Canadian geese reside at Mooney Grove Park. In February, GSA staff met with representatives of Environmental Health, Animal Services, and County Counsel to identify best practices on addressing geese overpopulation. The process is complicated and would be done through permitting by the State Wildlife Agency .

11. Parks Manager Update

Neil Pilegard, Parks Manager- Tree removal is taking place at Kings River and Cutler Park. Park staff connected Woodville Park to domestic water service and restrooms are up and running.

12. Committee Member Matters

None to report at the time.

13. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

Committee agrees to hold the next meeting on Thursday, June 17 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.